



Washington State Department of Agriculture News Release

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Contact: Linda Waring (360) 902-1815 or (360) 561-3674
Mike Louisell (360) 902-1813 or (360) 561-3675
Rob Harper, Military Department (800) 688-8955

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

P.O. Box 42560, Olympia, Washington 98504-2560

MEDIA AVAILABILITY

Foot-and-mouth disease outbreak exercise to be held Aug. 15 in Pasco

OYMPIA – The state Department of Agriculture and the state Military Department will conduct a tabletop exercise Aug. 15 that will mobilize more than 60 responders to assess steps local, state and federal authorities would take to isolate and eradicate an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease on a farm in Franklin County. There will be two opportunities for media to interview State Veterinarian Dr. Robert Mead and other officials:

- Noon to 12:15 p.m. at Columbia Basin College, Work Force Training Center, Room 180, 2600 North 20th Ave. in Pasco
- 2 p.m. Mock news conference, Connell Fire Station

To ensure that participants can take full advantage of the training, reporters are asked to meet official responders only during designated times.

During the exercise, Dr. Mead and his staff will review isolation, eradication and recovery steps called for in the state's emergency response plan for foreign animal diseases.

The purpose of the exercise is to orient and train local officials on the protocol for managing the outbreak of a highly infectious animal disease. The exercise will portray response protocol as if an actual outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease occurred in a cattle herd near Connell.

The U.S. has been free of foot-and-mouth disease since 1929.

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